

RI Transportation *Digest*

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Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

Relocated I-195 in Providence will be better, wider, straighter



RELOCATION OF I-195 is underway south of the Providence Hurricane Barrier (at left) and on toward India Point Park (at right).

By Alison Natale

Bright orange construction barrels line the roadway, traffic is snarled for miles, red brake lights illuminate the night sky and honking horns echo louder than the latest Usher song. Is this your typical evening commute on I-195? Not for long, thanks to the ongoing relocation of I-195 in Providence. Construction crews have had a busy year, with many phases of the relocation in progress.

Problems were noticed on the then 30-year-old interstate in the mid-1980s. RIDOT conducted studies, which in 1992 led to the conclusion that improvements were greatly needed on the heavily traveled highway. A deteriorating roadway, excessive traffic, and an obsolete highway design with numerous curves were several of the problems noted by the study.

New ideas and options for I-195 were brought forth in 1999. Instead of fixing the existing highway, and causing endless traffic delays, RIDOT decided to build a totally new highway section, on a substantially new alignment. The concept was on the cutting edge of design. Design Project Manager Lambri Zerva said that although the cheaper option would have been to rebuild the old highway, the new design will create a better, wider highway with a straighter alignment. "We are not affecting traffic as much this way, and the design is much more up-to-date," Zerva added.

In essence, I-195 will be moved south, creating an entirely new route between I-95 and the Washington Bridge. Construction work will also be done on I-95 from Broad Street to Thurbers Avenue. Improvements to the Washington Bridge, which is currently under construction, is a separate project.

Both transportation and urban improvements will result from the I-195-relocation project. An eight-lane freeway from the I-95/I-195 interchange to the Washington Bridge, a new Providence River Bridge, new pedestrian pathways, and architectural and landscaping enhancements along the right-of-way are just a few of the improvements planned for I-195.



ADDRESSING THE STAFF: Governor Donald L. Carcieri speaks to staff members of all the RIDOT Maintenance facilities, who met at RIDOT Headquarters off Jefferson Blvd. in Warwick to talk with the Governor. More on page 2.

See RELOCATION, page 3

From the Director's Office

Over the past six months, we have worked with our Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division to make some organizational changes in an effort to improve the efficiency of the Division. I have assigned Chuck Alves to oversee the operations of the Division.

We began to review operations and found ways to make improvements.

The Division was organized into three major sections – Engineering and Support, Field Operations and Central Services, providing initial administrative savings of over \$200,000.

We initiated weekly staff meetings and encouraged participation. Our goal was to identify needs rather than issue orders. We established reporting systems, and moved to create a team environment. Workers now have authority to meet their responsibilities.

Right now everyone is concerned with winter operations. We have put all snow routes on web-based GIS maps, with driver and vendor information for routes. We have given district managers the authority to fight storms,



James Capaldi, P.E.
RIDOT Director

and developed a storm reporting system for post-storm review.

But six months of the year, our focus is on cutting grass. We maintain 16,000 acres of land, and one cutting uses 75 percent of all the maintenance resources available for 20 days. We are reviewing changing the plantings along our roadways to a more natural, flowered environment, and instituting maintenance friendly slope plantings. These efforts will

help to reduce the number of acres to be cut.

We have changed the ACI litter crew size to increase production, for we can cover four miles per day with a crew of eight. We recently purchased a "Road Rake" for "junk runs." The graffiti removal program is being evaluated to determine its cost effectiveness. We are planning to use two companies to manage a revived Adopt-A-Highway program, with a new sign design and additional efforts to bring more recognition to sponsors. The new litter campaign will be implemented this spring.

We cover 3,000 sweeping miles and need 21 sweepers and 25 days for

the first sweep of the year. This effort uses 65 percent of all Maintenance resources. We currently have 10 working sweepers.

We found we had more than 1,400 lights out. By November, 950 of them were re-lit in the I-95 and Route 146 corridors. We told the Governor in November that we would complete repair of the backlog of lights within 90 days. After that, our two crews of five can address day-to-day outages. We are also developing a plan to replace the lighting systems on all our limited access highways. These would be financed with FHWA funds as part of asset management.

We hired a manager to develop an inventory control system and to conduct cost benefit analyses on lease vs. purchase of various vehicles and equipment. We are also developing a Request for Proposals to lease and repair 25 mowers. Dispatch is now computerized, so we now have a follow-up reporting system.

Looking to consolidating facilities, we now have the Scituate facility open for winter operation only. The Charlestown and Westerly facilities are also under review. We have given the Town of New Shoreham an annual apportionment to perform maintenance on state roads.



Chuck Alves, RIDOT Deputy Director/Chief of Staff and Adejuwon Aikulola, MIS-Maintenance, at the Director's New Year's party.



NEW YEAR'S LUNCH PARTY in Director Capaldi's office begins with Frank Corrao, left, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, looking over the dishes along with Suzanne Amerault of the Director's Office.

* **Relocation**

(Continued from Page 1)

To date, RIDOT has acquired all the land needed to make the project happen, taken down nearly all the buildings that interfere with the design, and moved utilities that obstructed the plan. Several parts of the project are well underway as well. The new bridge over the Providence River is one-third complete, and should be open sometime in 2007. The Point Street overpass is also under construction and will be complete in mid-2006. The summer of 2005 will bring completion of the West River pedestrian walkway.

"A lot of projects are underway right now and many more are slated to begin in the new year," said Jim Caroselli, Chief Civil Engineer of the project. Caroselli said construction will begin this year on the new ramps from I-95 North to I-195 East, the first phase of the project RIDOT hopes to open. Work on the pedestrian bridge, which crosses I-195 to India Point, and several on and off ramps will also start in the coming year.

According to Zerva, the relocation project is about a third of the way finished. The entire project is slated to be complete in 2012. At that time, the old I-195 will have been taken down and about 35 acres of land where I-195 originally stood, will be put up for sale.

Whitertopping paper selected for international conference

Colin A. Franco, P.E., Managing Engineer of the RIDOT Research & Technology section, recently learned from Conference organizers that his paper, "Rhode Island Experience with Whitertopping of a Downslope Signalized Intersection" has been accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Best Practices for Ultra-thin and Thin Whitertoppings.

Franco will make a presentation on the topic at the Conference, which will be held in April in Denver, Colorado.



VISITING ALL AREAS, Governor Donald Carcieri shakes hands with Lou Ricci in the Traffic/Electrical section during his visit to RIDOT Maintenance, above. Below, the Governor talks with another RIDOT Maintenance staff member during his early December visit to Headquarters in Warwick.



Governor visits Maintenance

On December 9, Governor Donald L. Carcieri visited the RIDOT Maintenance Headquarters in Warwick, where snow plows and roadside maintenance crews are dispatched to work on state roads.

At a brief assembly, the Governor expressed his gratitude to maintenance workers for their hard work and diligence in plowing and cleaning roadways. He said, "It is a point of pride for state residents to have roads that are clean and free from graffiti and highways that are effectively plowed in response to storms. You are improving the appearance of our roads. People are noticing."

Following his remarks, Governor Carcieri toured every area of the facility.

Ten Mile River Bikeway honored by FHWA

On December 2, Chief Engineer Edmund T. Parker, P.E. was notified that Ten Mile River Bikeway Segment 5 was selected for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) 2004 Excellence in Highway Design Award. The project won honorable mention in Category 6. United International Corporation and J. H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. worked with RIDOT on the project.

In the notification letter, Dwight A. Horne, Director of the FHWA Office of Program Administration said, "One of the most difficult challenges facing the

transportation community is to provide facilities that meet our transportation needs in ways that put people first, providing facilities that move people and goods in the safest and most efficient ways, while maintaining respect for the environment and nearby communities. As illustrated by the quality of the entries received for this year's Excellence in Highway Design Award, State and local transportation providers, in partnership with the highway industry, have embraced this challenge with resounding success."

Party for George Ley was a well-wishing sendoff for engineer headed for Iraq



WISHING HIM WELL: Mona Manachi, right, greets George Ley, second from right, at a party held in his honor December 16 prior to Ley's military activation with expected deployment to Iraq. Major Ley is with the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Civil Engineering Squadron. Manachi, Ley's RIDOT Construction supervisor, prepared the food and hosted the party. Among those attending to wish Ley well were, left, Ed Mancini of RIDOT MIS, a Navy veteran, and second from left, Alfred "Gus" Pagel of RIDOT Construction.

Walkability Concepts Workshop



SAFE ENVIRONMENTS NEEDED: Participants at a recent RIDOT Walkability Concepts Workshop discuss techniques for encouraging increased walking and bicycling in safe environments. The focus of the November 30th workshop was a discussion of engineering solutions to improve pedestrian accommodations. The workshop was led by Mark Fenton of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking.

Learning to integrate activities at the TMC

The RIDOT TMC continues to be a hub of activity for information on new technologies and new ways to do business in a cost-effective manner. At the December meeting of the Statewide Incident Management Task Force, attendees heard a presentation by Paul Jodoin of MassHighway, Program Operations Manager in charge of, among other things, the MassHighway Traffic Operations Center.



SYSTEMS INTEGRATION was the topic for Paul Jodoin, left, of MassHighway, seen addressing the Rhode Island Statewide Incident Management Task Force.

Jodoin's discussion focused on the systems integration that MassHighway has implemented to streamline incident detection and notification procedures and Operator functions. The RIDOT TMC is also seeking to streamline and integrate activities, due to the large volume of incidents handled every month. In November 2004, the TMC managed 333 incidents, most involving lane closures and/or full road closures.

Currently, TMC Operators must physically move from one work station to another to fully use the ITS roadside equipment. These segregated work station activities cause some delay in transmitting information to the public, as well as working with responders to keep them safe while they are dealing with incidents. RIDOT is currently exploring cost-efficient methods to phase in system integration, and was eager to hear the information contained in Jodoin's presentation.



20 YEARS OF SERVICE: The largest group of those honored in the career award ceremonies had 20 years of state service.

Career Service Awards

May-October 2004

Forty-Five Year Presentation

Walter D. Ptaszek-Construction.

Thirty-Five Year Presentation

Alfred R. Chiaverini-Materials; Charles A. Obreiter-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters.

Thirty-Year Presentation

John C. Auger-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Belleville; William E. De-Cristofaro-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Midstate; Terrence McIlmail-Construction; Richard J. Munro-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Donna L. Scalzi-Materials.

Twenty-Five Year Presentation

Deborah L. Cameron-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Paul T. Carcieri-Real Estate; Anthony DeQuattro-Real Estate; Robert J. Moniz-Construction; Salvatore Rugieri, Jr.-Construction; Anthony J. Soscia-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Traffic; Gina M. Zanni-Public Affairs

Twenty Year Presentation

Dana M. Boisclair-Survey; Leo S. Boisclair-Construction; Joseph B. Braz-Materials; Walter E. Burns-Construction; Michael F. Byrne-Materials; Pasco Cardillo Jr.-Materials; Vartouhy K. Cheteyan-Survey; Theodore Coleman-Traffic Design; Kevin J. Coulombe-Survey; James Deleo-Construction; Daniel J. Donovan Jr.-Construction; Mark E. Felag-Materials; John J. Filipponi Jr.-Construction; David W. Fish-Bridge Design; Leo V. Gartsu-Construction;

Cindy Lee Hayes-Construction;

Felipe N. Hernandez-Construction; Michael Hull-Construction; Anthony L. Manfredi-Fleet; Francis J. Manning-Research & Technology; John M. Marchwicki-Health & Safety; Namvar Moghdam-Design/Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Deborah Munroe-Research & Technology; Harold A. Omisore-Construction; Leroy A. Perkins-Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Edward S. Pezzi-Final Review; Richard Pisaturo-Construction; William A. Ringgold-Materials; Hebert H. Roberts III-Construction; Michael M. Scalzi-MIS; Michael Sherrill-Research & Technology; William D. Smith Jr.-Construction; Carol A. Stravato-Bridge Design; Paul Thibeault-Highway &

(See Awards, page 6)



35 YEARS: Director Capaldi, left, with 35 year honorees Charles A. Obreiter of Highway and Bridge Maintenance Headquarters, center, and Alfred R. Chiaverini of Materials.



25 YEARS OF SERVICE - With Director Capaldi, second from left, are Gina Zanni of Public Affairs, Paul Carcieri of Real Estate, and Robert Moniz of Construction, right.

* Awards

(Continued from Page 5)

Technology; William D. Smith Jr.-Construction; Carol A. Stravato-Bridge Design; Paul Thibeault-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters.

Fifteen Year Presentation

Eva M. Bernardo-Real Estate; Domenic J. Mainelli-Design; Serena M. Mancini-MIS; William R. Riccio Jr.-Design; Charles Sivo-Construction.

Ten Year Presentation

David J. Cluley-Bridge Design; Thomas G. DiFusco-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Michael A. Gannon-Road Design; John H. Larch, III-Design; John R. Laroche-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Glocester; Edward A. Mancini Jr.-MIS ; John Pita, Sr.-Construction; Kelly A. Presley-Environmental; Cheryl A. Serpa-Construction; Elizabeth J. Swartz-External Audit

New hires and retirees

New hires this fall and winter at the Department of Transportation include: Edward W. Goodrich, Lee Ann M. Tanguay, Domenic F. Napolitano, and Steven P. Marandola, all assigned to Construction; Jimena Sandoval assigned to MIS; Francis R. Chatelle, Brett D. Robistow, Thomas M. Sullivan, Christopher Leonard, Antone Sylvia Jr., Joseph Benevides, Kevin J. Amaral, Joseph J. Ruggieri, Scott B. Trudeau, John F. Ferry, Jr., Daniel Gleason, and Wayne R. Lotito assigned to Highway & Bridge Maintenance.

Retirees this fall and winter included Carole A. Edmonds of Administrative Services; Richard C. Ryan of Design; Walter Cook of Finals; Kevin M. Kelley, Roger E. Costa, Philip D. Ferrara, Guido Dimeo Jr., Gary Fitzgerald, and Bernard J. Wilson, all of Highway & Bridge Maintenance.



MANY YEARS OF BUILDING BRIDGES: Walter Ptaszek, left, and Walter Burns, right, were honored by RIDOT Director James Capaldi, center, for a combined 103 years experience building bridges at the Career Awards ceremonies in October. Ptaszek received a pin for his 45 years of service at RIDOT, and Burns received a pin for 20 years of service with the state. Burns has an additional 38 years of building bridges with the Ironworkers Union.



FLU SHOTS, AT LAST: David Martone of Intermodal Transportation Planning rolls up his sleeve for a flu shot on January 13. The shots, as well as flu mist, were distributed at a clinic that had been postponed for several months.



BASEBALL GAME, well not the Red Sox and Yankees but the Phillies and Montreal, were a highlight at the AASHTO conference this fall. Enjoying the game and the conference were left, Chief Engineer Edmund Parker, and right, RIDOT Legislative Liaison, Bernie Frezza.



BRIDGE DESIGN'S Eric Seabury, and the 150 lb. mako shark he caught in October.

Seabury's successful voyage!

Eric Seabury of RIDOT Bridge Design landed a 150-pound Mako shark on his boat on October 2. Dave Morgan, also of RIDOT Bridge Design enjoyed the offshore trip as well.

Seabury's boat is a 1974 Formula F233, named "Fintage." He bagged the shark about 60 miles offshore, south of "The Horns." They trolled for and caught several small Bluefin Tuna and False Albacore in the early morning, then set up their drift for sharks mid-morning.

Just after losing a large shark, the Mako came to the surface and took

another bait. It took about a half hour until Seabury got the female shark harpooned and tail-roped.

It measured 6-1/2 feet, and according to length/weight charts available for Mako, was estimated at around 150 pounds. Seabury said it tasted great on the grill. ("sS did the Bluefin we kept!")



Santa in Training

Mark Felag, above, of RIDOT Materials has definitely found a new avocation. Over the holidays, he donned the Santa costume for the entertainment of local passersby. (Note to Mark - next year, try a beard. It makes the look much more authentic.)

Wendall J. Flanders

Wendall J. Flanders, former Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, died unexpectedly on January 27. He was the husband of Marilyn A. Flanders.

Born in Maine, he had lived in Foster for the past four years. Flanders was educated at LaSalle Academy, Providence College, the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, and Fort Belvoir School of Engineering. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

Better known as "Wendy" at RIDOT and in the engineering community, Flanders was a Registered Professional Engineer in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. From 1956 to 1973, he was a project manager for the Maguire Engineering Group, and from 1973 to 1977 was Associate Director/Deputy Director at RIDOT. Governor J. Joseph Garrahy named



Wendall J. Flanders

him Director of Transportation in 1977, a post he held until 1982. From 1982 to 1997 Flanders was Chief Engineer for the Capitol Center Construction Management Team. When RIDOT won a Presidential Design Award for the Capital Center in 1997, Flanders said he believed the project had, "really brought a heart to downtown Providence."

From 1998 to 2003 served as Chief Engineer for Operations at DOT. He was honored as Rhode Island Professional Engineer of the Year in 2001 by the Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers

He is also survived by two daughters, Kathryn Lee Ross and Beth Ann Flanders, both in Rhode Island; a son, Scott D. Flanders of Kentucky; two step-sons David Pearson of California and Christopher Pearson in Rhode Island, and four grandchildren.



Looking back, fishing has always been popular and successful at RIDOT. Here's Americo Ceci in January 1971 thanks to Jim Choquette for the photo.

Greenway Challenge

RIDOT was represented by three teams at this fall's Greenway Challenge. Seen below top, Rod Machado of Federal Programs, Bob Rocchio and Tom Bushell of Traffic Design set out on foot; middle, Brian Peterson, RIDOT's Chief Financial Officer, begins a bike riding leg; and bottom, the party after all the races are over.



BUILD-A-BASKET Challenge: In the spirit of the Holiday Season, the Administrative Services division challenged all RIDOT divisions to create a basket to be donated to a needy family. On December 16, the baskets were brought together for a photo, with organizers, left to right, Jean Heiss and Christos Xenophontos of Contract Administration, Bill McCarthy of Facilities Management, Cyndi McCarthy of Administrative Services, and Allison Gill of Contract Administration. All baskets were donated to the Women's Center in Providence.

Safer holiday parties

DISTRIBUTING RIBBONS: SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) members, right, pass out ribbons at a press conference before the holidays to remind everyone, "You drink and drive. You lose."



HIGHWAY SAFETY'S Peggy Lopes, above right, serves cups of non-alcoholic eggnog at a party for the press in early December, to encourage people to enjoy non-alcohol holiday parties.



GUESS WHO? If you watch "American Dreams" on Sunday nights, you might think this is a photo of one of the "American Bandstand" performers from the 60s, say with Santo and Johnny or from the Four Seasons with Frankie Valli. No, you can see this performer right around RIDOT. Clue: this photo was not taken in the United States.

The mystery man is Al Taran-
tino, as a young man in Italy.

Kimtasha Kydd marries Scott Armstrong

Kimtasha L. Kydd and Scott C. Armstrong exchanged vows on October 16 in Ponte Vedra, Florida. The bride is the daughter of Phillip Kydd of RIDOT Administrative Services. She is a graduate of Pearl City High School in Pearl City, Hawaii. She works as a professional make-up artist with MAC Cosmetics, and is establishing an entrepreneurial make-up artistry service for weddings, magazines, film and fashion shows.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Armstrong of Clover, South Carolina. He is a graduate of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He is employed as a systems administrator for TNT Logistics North America in Jacksonville, Florida. The couple honeymooned in the Dominican Republic, and make their home in Jacksonville, FL.



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Armstrong pose for pictures after their wedding.

Melanie DeJesus - David Cluley

David Cluley of RIDOT Bridge Design and Melanie DeJesus, formerly of RIDOT Administrative Services, were married on September 25, 2004 in New Hampshire. They honeymooned in Bora Bora.

The couple met at RIDOT, after David moved to RIDOT Bridge Design from the RI Department of Environmental Management in November 2000. The bride now works in Human Resources at Tiffany & Company in Cumberland. The couple live in Warwick with their daughter Talia.



Mr. and Mrs. David Cluley enjoy their first dance as husband and wife.

Thanks to Haytham Awad, a good samaritan

August 8, 2004

I am so grateful to you for stopping to help me with changing the flat tire on my car so early Friday morning. I had been waiting for two hours for someone to come by. Even though two others had stopped to help, they were unsuccessful, and said they would call for the police to stop by and help me. Since that had not happened, I was feeling very helpless standing beside I-95 with the traffic zooming past.

Then my Good Samaritan came along - that was you, Mr. Awad. And you stayed with me until the job was done, even though it was a difficult job because of the sandy loam underneath the car. You knew what needed to be done, and you worked diligently until the tire was replaced with the spare tire, and I was able to drive on home to Sharon .

Your confidence and easy going personality made me feel at ease. I want to commend you for being so thoughtful to stop and aid someone in distress. I cannot tell you how many others just passed me by without even stopping to see if I could use their cell phone to call for help. Because you have shown that your priorities are to put the welfare of others before yourself, I know that you will continue to be very successful in life. ... I only hope that my own son will help someone as you have done - it would make me very proud.

Sincerely,
Patricia B. Jenkins
Sharon, Massachusetts

New England Leader in bikeways

Have ridden the East Bay Path and the Blackstone River path. Rhode Island is truly the New England Leader in building and maintaining bikeways. Other states should follow the example and Rhode Island should be proud of its bikeway system!

Richard Denio, Massachusetts

TMC's new look on the web

Love the new site. I work in Fall River and use it every afternoon before leaving work. Now if MA had the same thing, I would be all set coming and going.

Chuck Nadeau

RI Transportation Digest

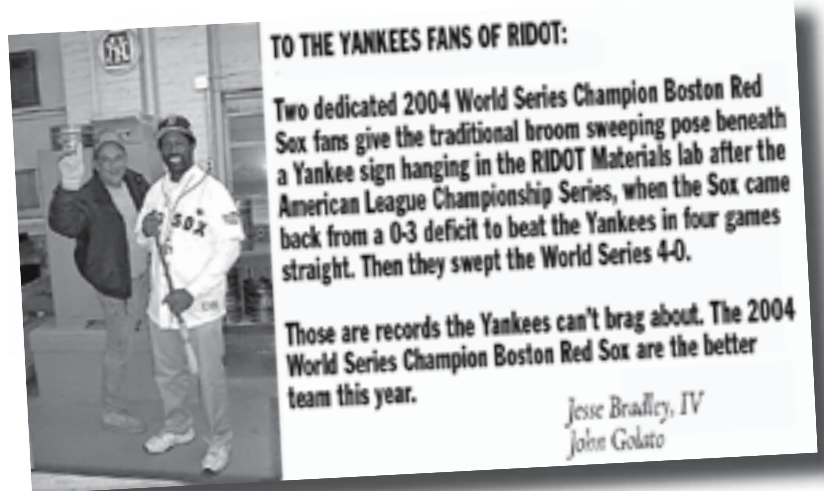
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Who's your papi?

There are lots of Red Sox fans at RIDOT, but not many are as enthusiastic as Jesse Bradley of RIDOT Construction. Bradley, who often rides a bicycle to work, drove a car to Boston the night after the Sox' four-straight-wins over the Yankees to win the American League Championship Series. He wanted to stock up on "official" Red Sox gear.

With the first World Series win in 86 years, Bradley's office door became a display of New England front pages. To top it all off, Bradley and fellow fan John Golato had the postcard, below, made up and personally delivered them to the Yankee fans at RIDOT.



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James R. Capaldi, P.E.
Director



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FIRST CLASS

